

Serial Number 10/777,160  
Navy Case No. 96,106  
Amendment In Response To Final Office Action

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~In a system comprising:~~ A method of processing wastewater comprising:

providing a wastewater processing apparatus, the wastewater processing apparatus comprising:

- a wastewater holding tank;
- a flash chamber having an upper section and a bottom section;
- a filtering device at the upper section of the flash chamber;
- a collection tank connected to the upper section of the flash chamber;
- a vacuum pump connected to the upper section of the flash chamber;
- a heat absorbing coil within the bottom section of the flash chamber;
- a condenser connected to the flash chamber;
- a distillate tank operably connected to the condenser;
- a heat exchanger;
- an orifice connecting the heat exchanger to the flash chamber; and
- a waste storage tank operably connected to the flash chamber at the lower section thereof;

~~a method of processing incoming wastewater comprising:~~

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drawing wastewater from the wastewater holding tank;  
feeding the wastewater through the heat absorbing coil within the bottom section of the flash chamber;  
feeding the wastewater from the heat absorbing coil to the condenser;  
feeding the wastewater from the condenser to the heat exchanger;  
heating the wastewater in the heat exchanger;  
feeding the heated wastewater through an entry orifice within the flash chamber for conversion into a vapor portion during a single evaporation stage and a contaminate portion, wherein the vapor portion rises to the upper section of the flash chamber, and the contaminate portion settles in the bottom section of the flash chamber;  
withdrawing the contaminate portion from the bottom section of the flash chamber; and  
feeding said contaminate portion to the waste storage tank.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 10, further comprising:

drawing the vapor portion through the filtering device under vacuum pressure created by the vacuum pump, creating a vapor filtrate and a condensate filtrate;  
collecting the condensate filtrate in the collection tank connected to the upper section of the flash chamber; and

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discharging the condensate filtrate from the collection tank when the condensate filtrate exceeds a predetermined condensate level; and  
feeding said discharged condensate filtrate to the distillate tank for temporarily storing the condensate filtrate.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 13, further comprising:

drawing the vapor filtrate from the upper section of the flash chamber into the condenser to obtain a second condensate;

feeding said second condensate from the condenser to the distillate tank for temporarily storing said second condensate; and

discharging a condensate mixture of said condensate filtrate and said second condensate from the distillate tank to an overboard discharge outlet when the condensate exceeds a predetermined condensate level.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 14, further comprising:

feeding the condensate mixture to an oil content monitor prior to feeding to the overboard discharge outlet.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method as defined in claim 15, further comprising:

monitoring and regulating the pressure within the flash chamber.

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**Claim 17 (previously presented):** The method as defined in claim 16, wherein the wastewater in the heat exchanger is heated to a temperature of about 175°F.